



**Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs**

**February 8, 2019, 8:30 am**

**Conference Room 325**

**HB 172**

**FY 19 and Biennium FY 20 and FY 21**

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## OVERVIEW

### A. Background and Mission

#### 1. Background

Upon statehood in 1959, Section 5(f) of the Admission Act directed the State to hold lands in trust for five purposes, one of which was “the betterment of the conditions of Native Hawaiians,” as defined in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920. In 1978 a Constitution Convention reviewed and revised the responsibilities of Hawai‘i’s government. Among the provisions incorporated into the new State constitution was the establishment of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), as a public trust with mandates to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians and Native Hawaiian community in general. In 1979, the legislature enacted Chapter 10 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) which created OHA as a semi-autonomous self-governing body. Subsequent legislation has defined the amount of the revenue streams accruing to OHA. OHA’s Board of Trustees is composed of nine trustees, five of whom represent specific island districts. OHA’s key administrators include a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer and five Departmental Directors ([www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org)).

Hawai‘i is an ethnically-diverse state. Currently, one in five (21.67%) of our island population define themselves as Native Hawaiian. Native Hawaiian households typically consist of larger, multi-generational families with more children, yet have less income per person than other populations residing in the State of Hawai‘i (American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). Native Hawaiians live in each county, with greater density in rural areas than metro cities.

#### 2. Mission

OHA’s mission is to mālama (protect) Hawai‘i’s people, environmental resources and assets, toward ensuring the perpetuation of the culture, the enhancement of lifestyle, and the protection of entitlements of Native Hawaiians, while enabling the building of a strong and healthy Hawaiian people and nation, recognized nationally and internationally. According to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 10, OHA is the principal public agency in the State of Hawai‘i responsible for:

- Betterment of conditions of Native Hawaiians;
- Performance, development, and coordination of programs and activities relating to Native Hawaiians;
- Assessing the policies and practices of other agencies impacting Native Hawaiians;
- Conducting advocacy efforts for Native Hawaiians; and,
- Serving as a receptacle for reparations.

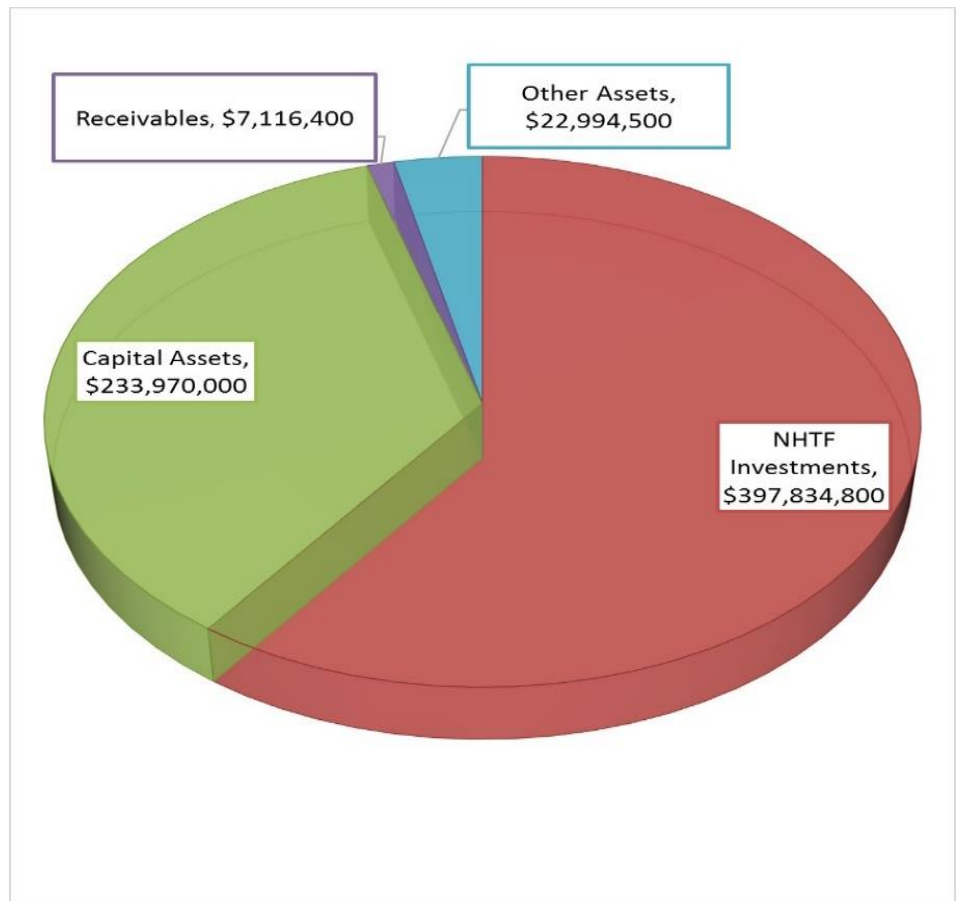
OHA carries out its mission through the strategic allocation of its limited resources. Consistent with best practices among foundations and endowments, and with the purpose of ensuring the continued viability of its Native Hawaiian Trust Fund (NHTF), OHA’s Board of Trustees adopted its first Spending Policy in 2003. This Policy limits its annual spending to 5% of the rolling 20

quarter average of the NHTF to help ensure sufficient resources are available for future generations. FY 2018 is used as an example to depict OHA's net assets and core operating budget.

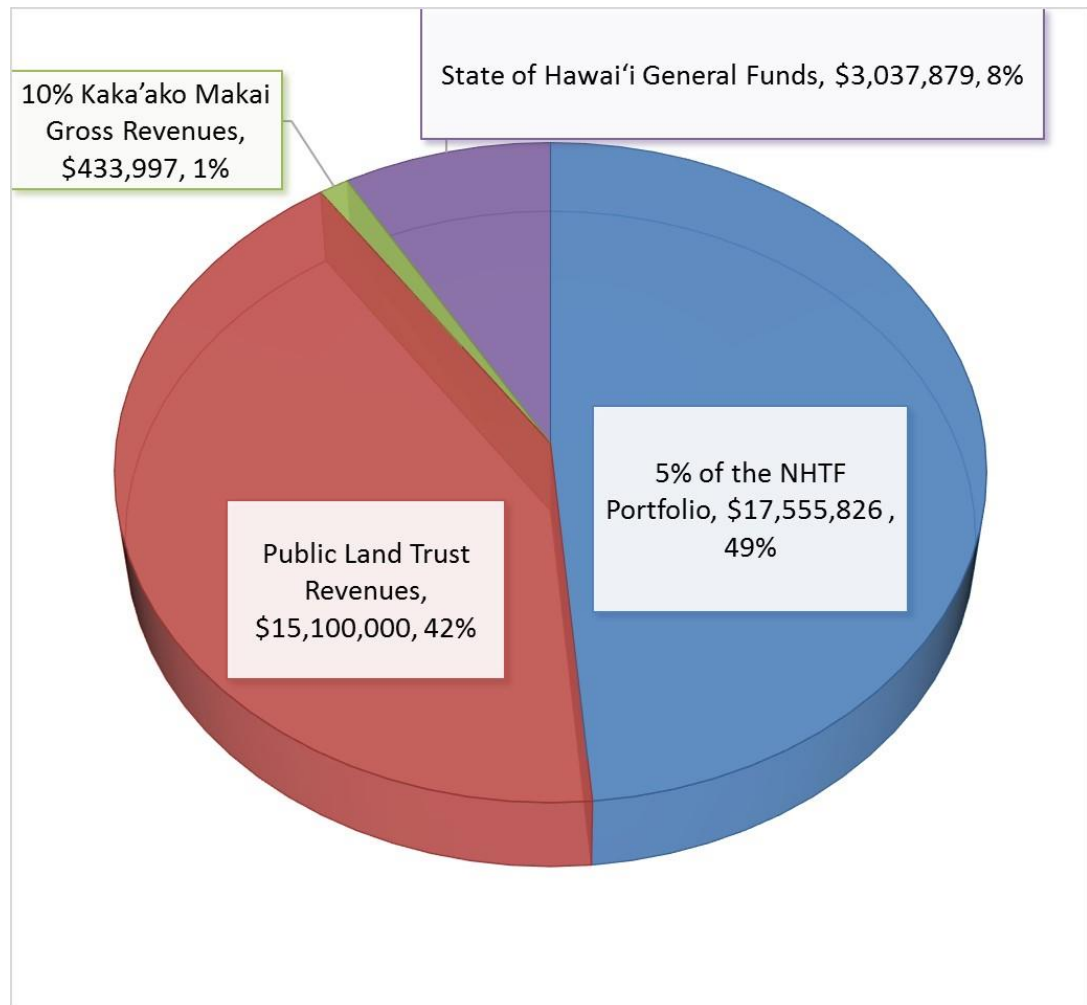
**Figure 1. OHA's FY 2018 Net Assets (unaudited) = \$662,915,500**

**OHA's Spending Policy limits the amount of annual withdrawals from its investment portfolio for operations.**

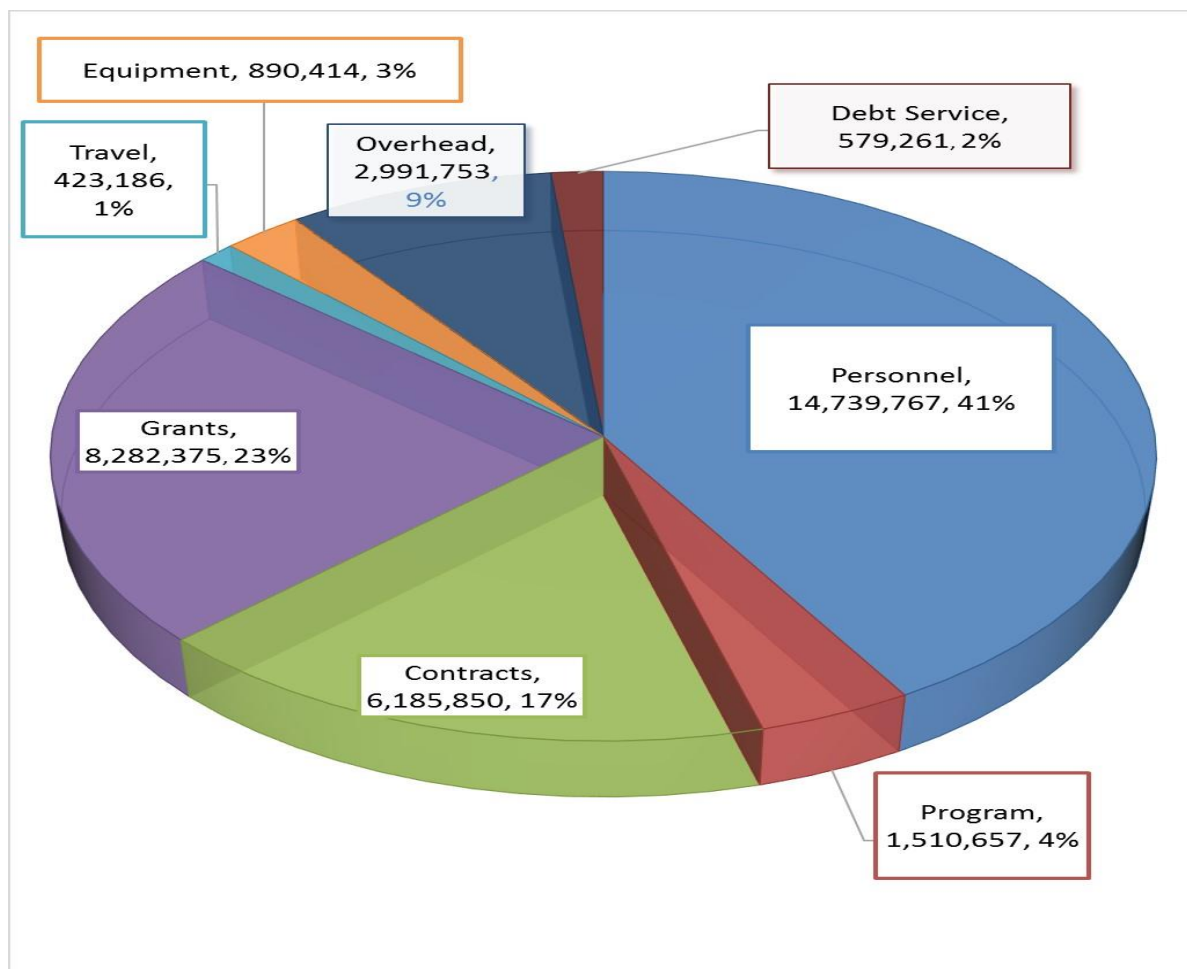
**For FY 2018 the spending limit was \$17,555,826, which was an increase of \$256,762 from FY 2016 of \$17,299,064.**



**Figure 2.** OHA's FY 2018 Funding Sources for Core Operations = **\$36,127,702**



**Figure 3. OHA's FY 2018 Core Operating Budget = \$35,603,263**



Each year, OHA publishes its activities and financial performance in its Annual Report. This year's report illustrates how the organization continues to make inroads on our three main goals: providing resources, advocating for Native Hawaiians on a range of issues, and facilitating collaboration among key stakeholders.

We encourage you to review the 2018 Office of Hawaiian Affairs Annual Report. The complete report can be downloaded from [www.oha.org/about/annual-reports/](http://www.oha.org/about/annual-reports/).

OHA's 2010-2018 Strategic Plan guides the achievement of its vision and mission. **Table 1** outlines the progress made on key strategic indicators related to the priorities and expected future outcomes outlined in this request. OHA has begun the challenging process of updating the Strategic Plan. Administrative staff has presented the Board of Trustees with the key steps and timetable for the update process. Developing the content of the plan will require interaction between the Board and staff, with final approval of the plan resting with the Board.

**Table 1.** Key Education, Economic, Health and Legal Indicators

Target Area	➤ Strategic Indicator ○ Related Measure/Evidence from OHA funding	Progress FY 17 - FY18	Future Progress	\$ Requested from State
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
<b>Adults</b>	➤ Increase number of <b>degrees or certificates</b> earned by Native Hawaiians from the UH System by 12%	97.8% FY2018	Maintain	\$ 0
	○ Number of OHA scholarships provided	384 awarded / yr	Maintain	
<b>K-12</b>	➤ Increase the percentage of Native Hawaiian student that meet or exceed <b>math standards*</b>	26% SY2018*	Increase	\$ 615,000
	➤ Increase the percentage of Native Hawaiian student that meet or exceed <b>reading standards*</b>	38% SY2018*	Increase	
	○ Number of Native Hawaiian students OHA assisted	3,428 students / yr	Maintain**	
<b>ECONOMIC</b>				
<b>Income</b>	➤ Increase Native Hawaiian <b>median family income</b> to 92% or greater of the total State median family income	87.7% FY2016	Increase	\$ 0
	⊖ Number of Native Hawaiians assisted	170 families / yr	Maintain**	
<b>Housing</b>	➤ Increase Native Hawaiian <b>homeownership</b> rate to 58%	50.3% FY2016	Increase	\$ 500,000
	➤ Decrease the percent of Native Hawaiians who pay more than 30% of Income on <b>rental housing cost</b> to 55%	51% FY2016	Decrease	
	○ Number of Native Hawaiians assisted	894 families / yr	Maintain**	
<b>Social Services</b>	○ Number of Native Hawaiians assisted	924 individuals / yr	Maintain**	\$ 415,000
<b>Income/ Housing/ Social Services</b>	○ Number who completed Financial Literacy Training to secure OHA economic assistance	757 individuals / yr	Maintain**	\$ 0
<b>HEALTH</b>	➤ Reduce the rate of <b>obesity</b> among Native Hawaiians to 35%	45.6% FY2016	Decrease	\$ 0
	○ Number of Native Hawaiians who lost weight	535 individuals / yr	Maintain**	
<b>LEGAL</b>	○ Number of Native Hawaiians who received legal services including representation	580 individuals / yr	Maintain**	\$ 524,400
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL PROGRAMMATIC REQUEST:</b>				<b>\$2,054,400</b>

**Note.** \* = Due to changes in the Department of Education's state standards and related assessments, these results are incomparable with previous years and with OHA's strategic target developed in 2009. In alignment with the DOE's updated targets, an update to OHA's strategic target is currently under consideration.

\*\* = Future progress expected to be consistent with the ratio of funding provided to meet each strategic indicator.



## **B. Current Economic Conditions & Notable Performance**

### **1. Impact of Current Economic Conditions**

Budget cuts on the State and Federal levels, combined with a volatile stock market have significant indirect impact to OHA's operational funds, programs and/or needs of OHA's beneficiaries in a number of ways.

- **Reductions.** In general, any loss of government funding to beneficiary programs and the organizations that serve them will cause an increased demand for supplemental funding from OHA to ensure that the health, education, legal, housing, and other daily needs of our beneficiaries are met. Reduced State appropriations have created a reduction in beneficiary assistance, from non-OHA programs, including but not limited to reductions in: 1) emergency financial assistance programs, 2) case management services which assist beneficiaries to access community resources, 3) clinicians providing mental health and substance abuse counseling and support, and 4) health monitoring/navigation programs that assist those with chronic disease to get needed medical care.
- **Reduced Program Funds.** Trust funds available to OHA increased in FY2018 but OHA notes a decrease in the first half of FY2019 due to the current volatile stock market.
- **Beneficiaries.** Due to many factors, Hawai'i continues to experience increases to costs of living (i.e. housing and food) that exceed increases in wage and income. This has exacerbated Native Hawaiians' housing instability, high rates of homelessness, and higher rates of poverty. Additionally, although Native Hawaiians participate in the labor force at higher rates than the state average (66.7% versus 65.3%), Native Hawaiian per capita income is substantially lower than the state population, \$24,188 compared to \$33,882 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018; U.S. Census Bureau, 2018).
- **Bottom Line.** State and federal budget cuts may have reduced services and programs that previously serviced OHA beneficiaries. When there are cuts beneficiaries often turn to OHA to fill the gap. Also, increasingly non-profits and other social services organizations have looked to other avenues to support their work and have turned to OHA for support.

### **2. Notable Performance, Results and Expected Outcomes**

**Enhanced performance measures.** In the quest to improve conditions for Native Hawaiians, OHA continues to work closely with many community-based partners who continue to play a critical role in the successes presented in Table 1. OHA remains encouraged by visible signs of progress in helping Hawai'i's citizens improve their health; improve their economic self-sufficiency; secure stable housing; improve skills in reading and math; and protect legal rights. Within the last year OHA has continued to align its funded projects with its strategic priorities, increased its grants monitoring, strengthened its grants performance measures, and streamlined its grant processes with input from past and current providers. Additionally, trustees

have adopted new guidelines for its Kulia grants program and are in the process of amending trustee allowance policies and its fiscal reserve policy. Currently, all OHA community grant applications, from each county and for every grant type, are submitted online at OHA's updated website - [www.oha.org](http://www.oha.org). Finally, OHA's Board approved a policy amendment that requires Board approval for all grants and sponsorships and therefore these decisions will be made in open public meetings.

**Significant Return on Investment via OHA and Community Commitment.** For FY18 and FY19 OHA successfully leveraged \$3,347,660 of general funds into \$14,160,959 in the areas of social services, legal services, education, and income, a 4.23 : 1 total impact.

Strong demand continues for OHA grant money to help tackle priority issues. Community partners increasingly tailor marketable services to OHA priorities to meet critical needs across the State. Organizations contribute a minimum 20% cash match in each grant request. In turn, OHA anticipates that it will be as successful as it was in this past fiscal biennium, and through continued partnerships with the State and many well-connected organizations, we will leverage OHA funds as much as 8.4 : 1 (in the area of housing).

**Bottom Line.** State General Funds are highly leveraged through its partnership with OHA, as evidenced by an impressive overall **4.23 : 1 total impact** as depicted in Table 2.

In other words, OHA will turn **\$4.1 million** into **\$17.4 million** to strengthen Hawai'i families and communities

**Table 2.** Summary of FB 20/21 Projected State Leveraged Impact by Priority Area: State Funds Leveraged 4.23:1

Priority Area	Requested State General Funds	Projected OHA Matching Funds	Projected Minimum 20% Community Match	Other OHA Trust Funds [A]	Total Investment [B]	Leveraged Impact [C]	Estimated # of Individuals to be Served	Estimated # of Native Hawaiians to be Served
Social Services	830,000	830,000	332,000	0	1,992,000	2.40	1,847	1,847
Legal Services	1,048,800	1,048,800	676,218	0	2,773,818	2.64	1,160	1,160
Education	1,230,000	1,230,000	200,000	1,540,000	4,200,000	3.41	9,687	6,856
Housing (inc \$6M DHHL)	1,000,000	1,000,000	400,000	6,000,000	8,400,000	8.40	4,432	3,576
TOTAL:	4,108,800	4,108,800	1,608,218	7,540,000	17,365,818	4.23	17,126	13,439

Notes:

[A] Housing includes \$3M/year to DHHL.

[B] Additional Funds through OHA Partnership: \$13,257,018 [ = \$17,365,818 (Total Investment) - 4,108,800 (State General Funds) ]

[C] Leveraged Impact = Total Investment / State General Funds; Projected State General Funds leveraged through OHA Partnerships: 4.23 : 1

*Above does not include OHA in-kind salary & administrative support*

## FEDERAL FUNDS

### C. Impending Loss of Direct Federal Funds

OHA currently administers one (1) Federally-funded pass-through program and one (1) Federally-funded direct program. As of this time, these awards have not lost, or are not at risk, of losing federal funding. They are summarized as follows:

<u>Federal Grantor / Pass-through Grantor / Program Title</u>		<u>Federal CFDA Number</u>
<b>U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highways --</b>		
Pass-through Program: Department of Transportation, State of Hawai'i Interstate Route H-3		20.205
<b>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services --</b>		
Direct Program: Native American Program, Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Program		93.612

1. The Hālawā Luluku Interpretive Development (HLID) Project is a pass-through from the State's Department of Transportation. Its three basic goals are compliance, mitigation, and community support relating to the adverse impacts as a result of construction of Interstate Highway H-3.
2. The Native Hawaiian Revolving Loan Fund (NHRLF), whose mission is to enhance access for all persons of Native Hawaiian ancestry to credit, capital, and financial services to create jobs, wealth, and economic and social well-being for all the people of Hawai'i, issued its first loan in 1989.

The Native American Programs Act (NAPA) of 1974, as amended, requires the Administration for Native Americans to submit an Annual Report to the Congress on the NHRLF. The most recent report, submitted in March 2016, noted that through FY 2015 (June 30, 2015), "OHA has successfully revolved the Fund twice by lending a cumulative \$57 million to more than 2,000 Native Hawaiians. More importantly, the Fund has contributed to the economic self-sufficiency of Native Hawaiians." The report continues by informing the Congress of joint efforts to develop a Three-Year Business Plan that "will demonstrate that the \$26 million Fund can be self-sustaining and continue to advance the economic and social self-sufficiency of Native Hawaiians."

## NON-GENERAL FUNDS

### D. Reports to the Legislature on Non-General Funds pursuant to HRS 37-47

Please see Appendix C.

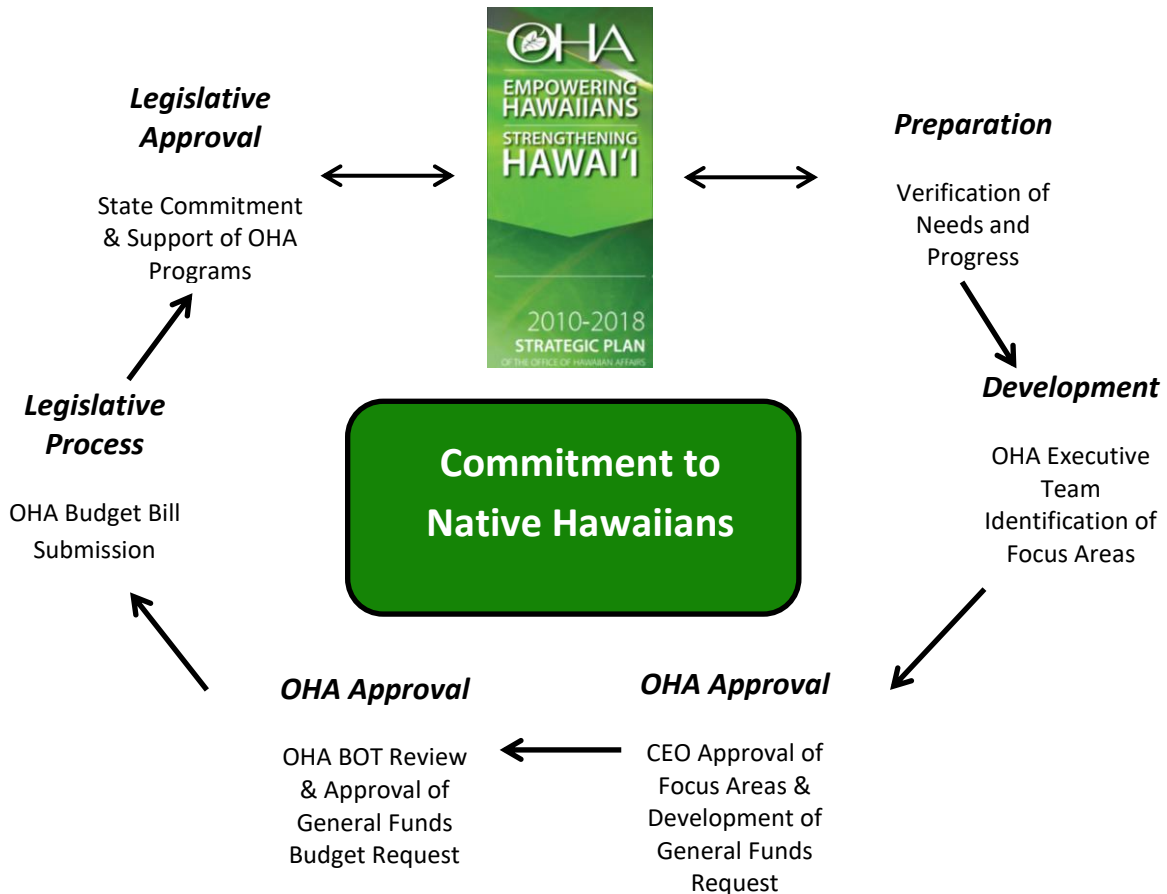
## BUDGET REQUEST

### E. Budget Development Process and Priority Requests

#### 1. Budget Development

As documented in Figure 4, OHA's request centers on both the State and OHA's commitment to Native Hawaiians. The process involves an assessment of priorities, previous progress and needs by OHA's Executive Team prior to Board Approval and eventual Legislative Submission.

**Figure 4.** OHA's General Funds Biennial Budget Development Process



## 2. Summary of Priority Requests

**Historical Funding.** OHA has received State General Funds since 1981 for a portion of its personnel and operating cost and to provide services. Through its FY 2018 - FY 2019 appropriations, OHA currently supports services to beneficiaries in the priority areas of **Social Services, Legal Services, Education, and Income**. OHA considers all of its programmatic request (Social Services, Legal Services, Education, and Housing) as well as support provided for personnel and operations as priorities.

**Budget Changes.** OHA is requesting an increase in programmatic support totaling \$500,000/year in the areas of Housing, as well as an increase in personnel support totaling \$562,130/year as explained in Section E. Significant Adjustments and Related Outcomes below.

In summary, OHA requests **\$7,921,158** including **\$4,108,800** for **programmatic support** plus **\$3,852,358** for **personnel and operations** during the next biennium. OHA hopes to leverage State's General Funds provided for programmatic support of **\$4,108,800** to a projected **\$17,365,818** or **4.23:1**, as summarized in Table 2.

As of this time, OHA considers all budget requests, including changes, as a priority since these funds will be used as leverage to heavily invest over the next two years in addressing four specific priority areas that are ultimately about helping statewide efforts to strengthen families and communities.

### F. Significant Budget Adjustments and Related Outcomes

OHA's FB 20/21 State General Funds request includes the following significant adjustments:

#### Budget Adjustments/Changes

##### HOUSING:

- **Increase** request for the combined areas of \$500,000/year.

##### INCOME:

- **Decrease** request of \$119,430/year.

##### PERSONNEL:

- **Increase** request totaling \$562,130/year and \$1,124,260/FB 20/21.

OHA is one of few State agencies whose primary source of funding is non-State-General Funds. Therefore, OHA has and will continue to be severely impacted by the large and unexpected increase in the State's fringe rate. Increased General Funds would allow OHA to more easily absorb the impact of the fringe rate increase and continue to service. As stated previously in this testimony, State and federal budget cuts have reduced services and programs that previously serviced OHA beneficiaries. As a result, these beneficiaries often turn to OHA to fill the gap. Also, increasingly non-profit and other social services organizations have looked to other avenues to support their work and have turned to OHA for support. Strong demand continues for OHA grant money to help tackle priority issues.

Community partners increasingly tailor marketable services to OHA priorities to help them stay afloat and meet critical needs across the State. Organizations contribute a 20% cash match in each grant request. In turn, OHA funding will allow many well-connected organizations to leverage OHA funds as much as 8.4 : 1 (see Table 2. Leveraged Impact, under “Housing”).

Changes for the upcoming FB 20/21 biennium are summarized in **Table 3** below:

**Table 3.** Overview of OHA’s Budget Request by Priority Area (per year)

Purpose	FB 18/19 (per year)		FB 20/21 (per year)		Adjustments	
	General Funds	Trust Fund Match	General Funds	Trust Fund Match	General Funds	Trust Fund Match
1. Social Services	\$ 415,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 415,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
2. Legal	524,400	524,400	524,400	524,400	0	0
3. Education	615,000	615,000	615,000	615,000	0	0
4. Housing	0	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
5. Income	119,430	619,430	0	0	-119,430	-619,430
<b>Sub-Total Programs:</b>	<b>\$ 1,673,830</b>	<b>\$ 2,173,830</b>	<b>\$ 2,054,400</b>	<b>\$ 2,054,400</b>	<b>\$ 380,570</b>	<b>\$ -119,430</b>
A. Personnel	1,067,175	3,959,000	1,629,305	3,959,000	562,130	0
B. Operations	296,874	296,874	296,874	296,874	0	0
<b>Sub-Total Non Programs:</b>	<b>\$ 1,364,049</b>	<b>\$ 4,255,874</b>	<b>\$ 1,926,179</b>	<b>\$ 4,255,874</b>	<b>\$ 562,130</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$ 3,037,879</b>	<b>\$ 6,429,704</b>	<b>\$ 3,980,579</b>	<b>\$ 6,310,274</b>	<b>\$ 942,700</b>	<b>\$ -119,430</b>
<b>FB 20/21 (2-year) Programs Total:</b>			<b>\$ 4,108,800</b>	<b>\$ 4,108,800</b>	<b>*Same as Table 2, 1:1 match</b>	
<b>FB 20/21 (2-year) Overall Total:</b>			<b>\$ 7,921,158</b>	<b>\$12,620,548</b>	<b>*Overall 1.6:1 match</b>	

Although OHA requests State General Funds each year, OHA’s support to the State and its programs far exceeds its ask. During the same period of time (FY 11-FY 19) in which OHA committed over **\$54 million in support of State agencies and its University**, it received less than half that amount, or **\$25 million** in State General Funds, as summarized in **Table 4** to the right.

The infographics on the pages following summarize OHA’s overall budget request as well as its projected leveraged impact as it relates to the four priority areas.

**Table 4.** State General Funds to OHA FY 11-FY 19

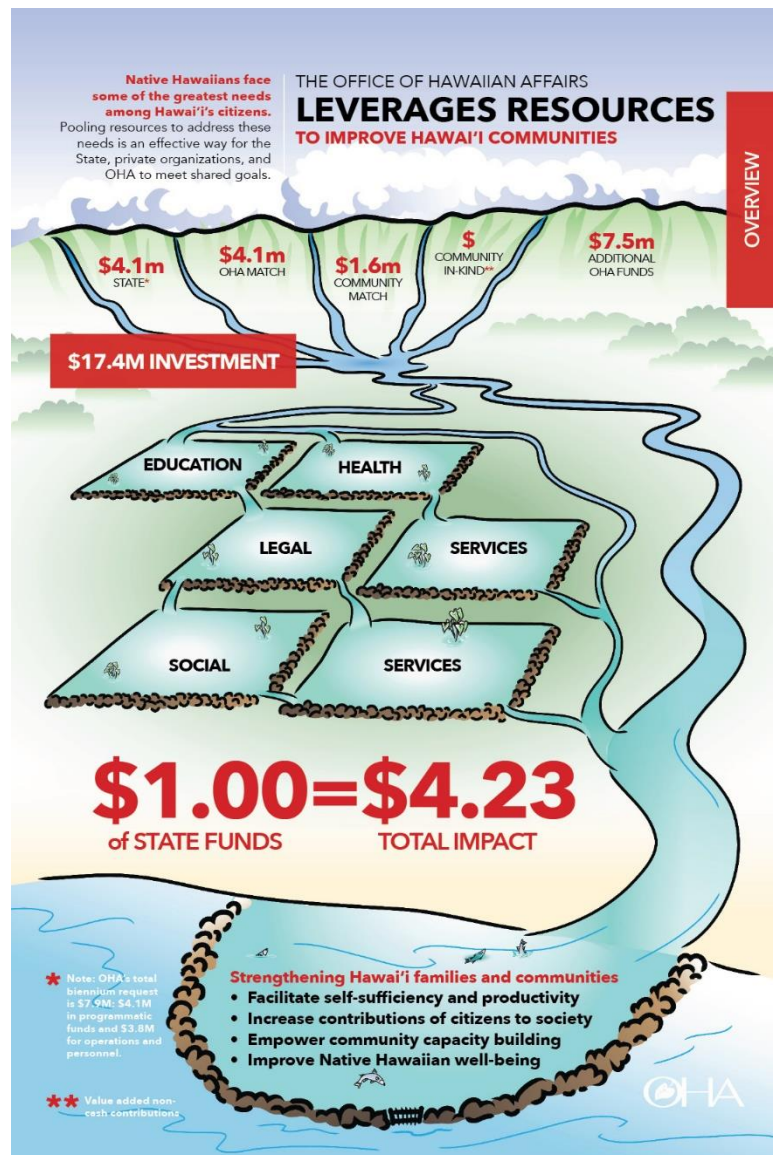
Fiscal Year	General Funds Amount
FY 2011	2,469,659
FY 2012	2,370,872
FY 2013	2,370,872
FY 2014	3,141,574
FY 2015	2,741,574
FY 2016	2,991,004
FY 2017	2,991,004
FY 2018	3,037,879
FY 2019	3,037,879
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 25,152,317</b>

## Summary of OHA's Budget Request and Projected State Leveraged Impact

In its quest to improve the conditions of Native Hawaiians, OHA has worked closely with a number of community-based partners to bring attention, needed resources, and advocacy to address the many urgent issues facing the Native Hawaiian community and the State as a whole. OHA remains encouraged by signs of progress in Native Hawaiians' ability to secure stable housing, improved socioeconomic conditions, increased financial stability, and greater awareness of and ability to protect their legal rights. In the months and years ahead, the immediate challenge will be maintaining and building upon this progress.

Strong demand remains for OHA grant money to help tackle these issues and OHA has seen community partners increasingly tailor their services to align with OHA's priorities. Many of these community partners have already proved their value in enhancing OHA's efforts to help create a solid future for Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i residents.

**Figure 5.** Summary Infographic (See Appendix A-1 for larger image)



OHA's grants program has substantially enhanced its community impact by requiring projects to align with OHA's strategic priorities, and by closely monitoring grant projects to ensure adequate progress toward specific, measurable outcomes. Therefore, it is with optimistic enthusiasm that OHA is now requesting \$4.1 million (over half of OHA's \$7.9 million total budget request) in programmatic state funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal biennium. OHA hopes to leverage \$4.1 million in State funds into a \$17.4 million investment in four specific areas that further existing State efforts to strengthen Hawai'i's families and communities.

OHA is committed to further leveraging the requested state funds by requiring a 20% cash match by all providers awarded funds under OHA's community grants program.



## 1. Social Services

In partnership with the State, OHA hopes to continue to provide support and funding for social services to at-risk Native Hawaiians. Through its grants program, OHA works with and funds organizations that serve Native Hawaiians who may be struggling financially or facing unexpected crises.

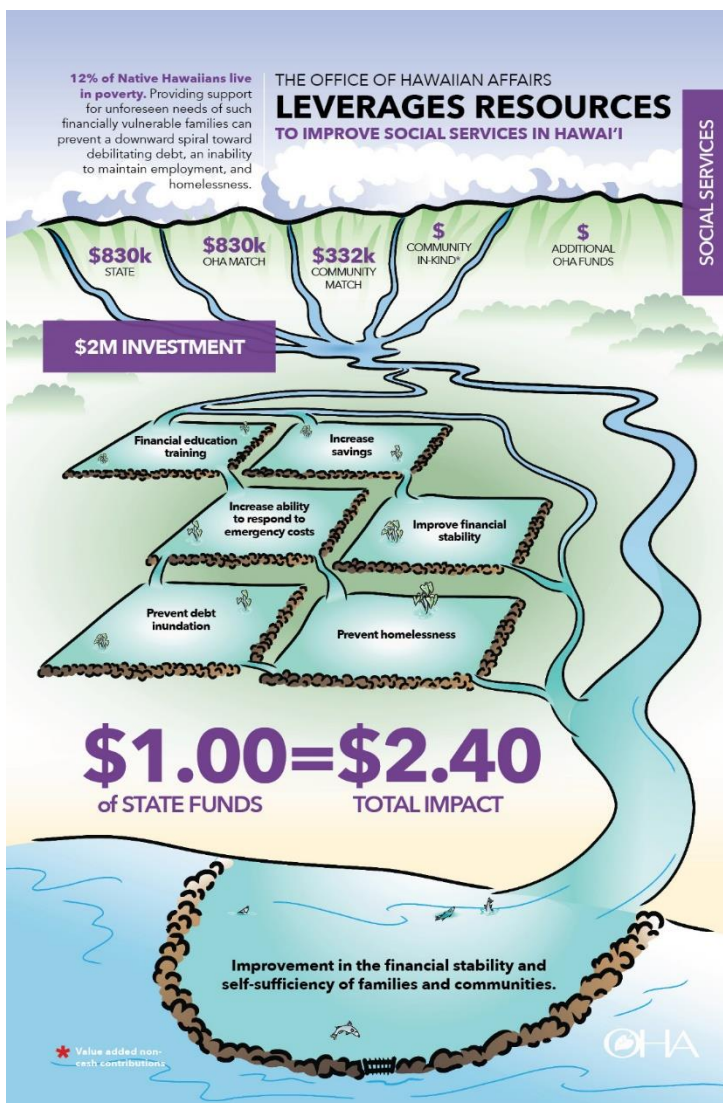
Unfortunately, the need for social services support within the Native Hawaiian community remains high. The most recent data from 2017 reveals that 12% of Native Hawaiian individuals and 10% of Native Hawaiian families live in poverty (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018). These rates are nearly 2.4% points higher than that of the total state population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018). In fact, although Native Hawaiians participate in the labor force at higher rates than the state average (66.7% versus 65.3%), Native Hawaiian per capita income is only 71% of that of the total state population, \$24,188 compared to \$33,882 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018; U.S. Census Bureau, 2018).

For many in our communities who are already living paycheck-to-paycheck and struggling to survive financially, emergency situations such as natural disasters, sudden unemployment, medical issues, or family

crises, exacerbate their already dire financial situation. In 2018, we saw many Native Hawaiian families affected by extreme flooding in Wainiha and Hā'ena, and by lava flows in Kalapana-Kapoho and Pāhoā.

OHA's emergency assistance program, funded through our social services proviso, collaborates with community partners to provide relief to struggling Native Hawaiians faced with unforeseen circumstances by providing funds to pay for necessities like rent and utilities, helping to ensure that they do not fall deeper into poverty, lose employment, or become homeless. Financial literacy training remains a condition for this emergency assistance, which is part of a larger effort to encourage financial self-sufficiency.

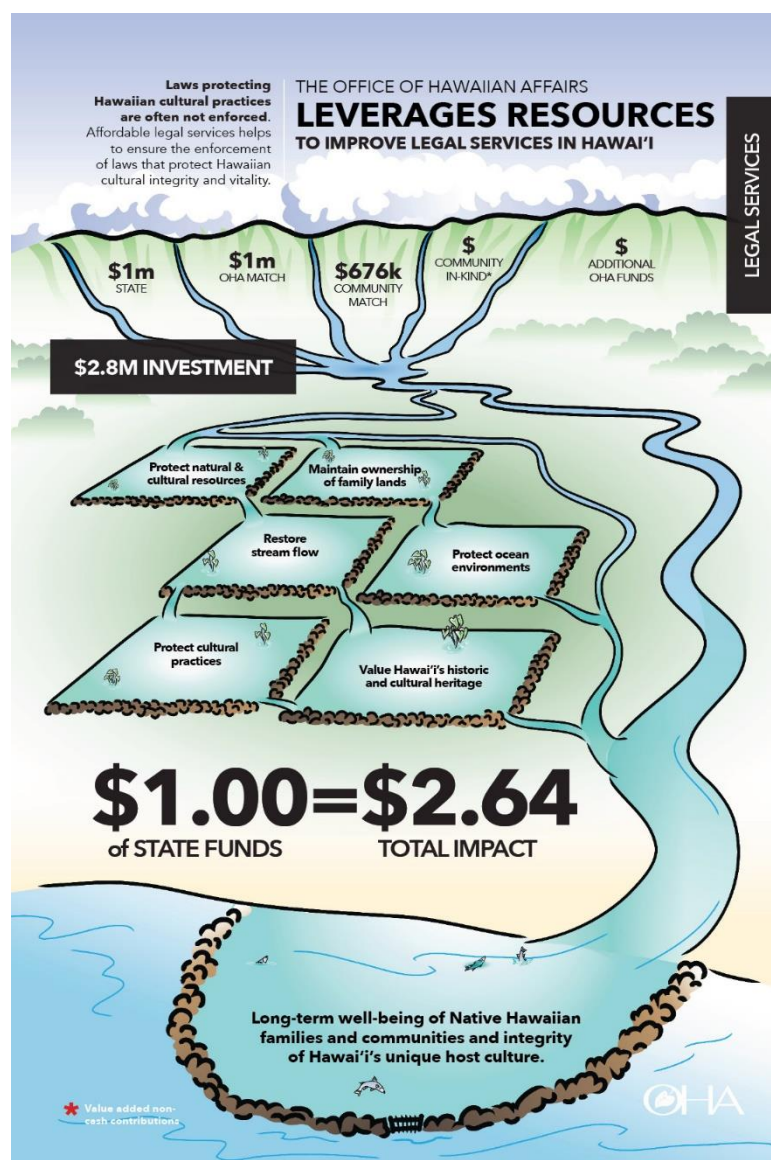
**Figure 6.** Social Services Infographic (See Appendix A-2 for larger image)



## 2. Legal Services

Over the next two years, OHA will continue to support access to justice for Native Hawaiians seeking to perpetuate their culture, and maintain a connection to their ‘āina, their communities, and their ‘ohana. The Legislature has found that the “historic and cultural heritage of the State is among its important assets” and has declared that it is the policy of the State to “provide leadership in preserving, restoring, and maintaining historic and cultural property . . . in a spirit of stewardship and trusteeship for future generations.” However, Native Hawaiians continue to have unique legal needs relating to issues such as quiet title, land title, traditional and customary practices, protection of significant places, and protection of natural and cultural resources. Accordingly, OHA’s legal services program provides funding that ensure state laws passed by the Legislature are upheld and Native Hawaiians have access to affordable legal services.

**Figure 7.** Legal Services Infographic (See Appendix A-3 for larger image)



OHA hopes to leverage \$1,040,800 in state funds over the next two years for a total investment of \$2.77 million in legal services that can improve and consistently uphold state laws that are meant to protect Native Hawaiians' rights and interests.

### 3. Education

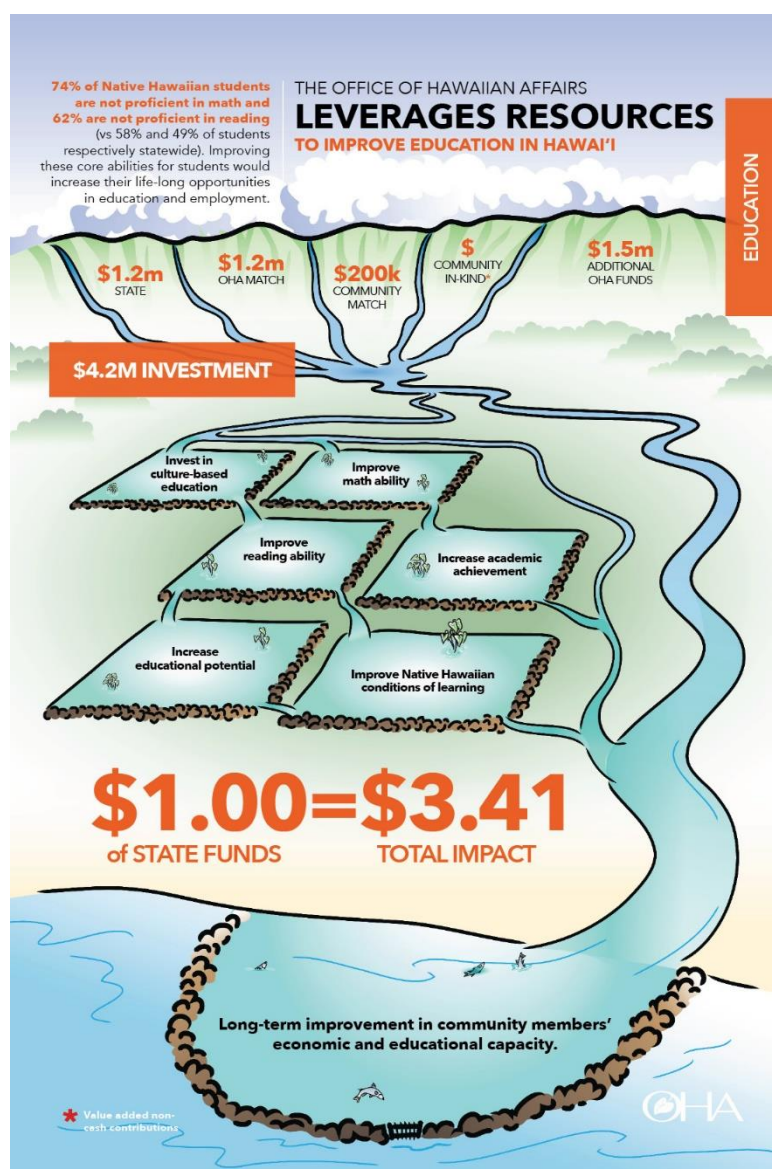
In the year ahead, OHA will continue to focus on closing the persistent achievement gap between Native Hawaiian students and their peers across the State, particularly in math and reading. OHA recognizes the need to reverse this trend, which threatens to undermine the future success of Native Hawaiian students. Last school year, 2017-18, 74% of Native Hawaiian students were not proficient in math and 62% were not proficient in reading (vs 58% and 46% of all students respectively) (DOE, 2018).

In order to close this gap, OHA seeks to support programs that provide Native Hawaiian students with learning opportunities that are culturally-based, that strengthened students' sense of well-being, and that provide specific strategies to help them understand the math and reading concepts with which they are struggling. Research shows that teaching environments using a culture-based education approach positively influence

key student outcomes, including improved community connections and cultural relationships, increased self-efficacy and a sense of belonging, and increased college aspirations. (Kanaiaupuni et al., 2017).

In addition, OHA believes that successful educational outcomes for all students, are critical to supporting the State's economy, overcoming our present and future social and environmental challenges, and maintaining a culturally enriched and socially conscious island society.

**Figure 8.** Education Infographic (See Appendix A-4 for larger image)





#### 4. Housing

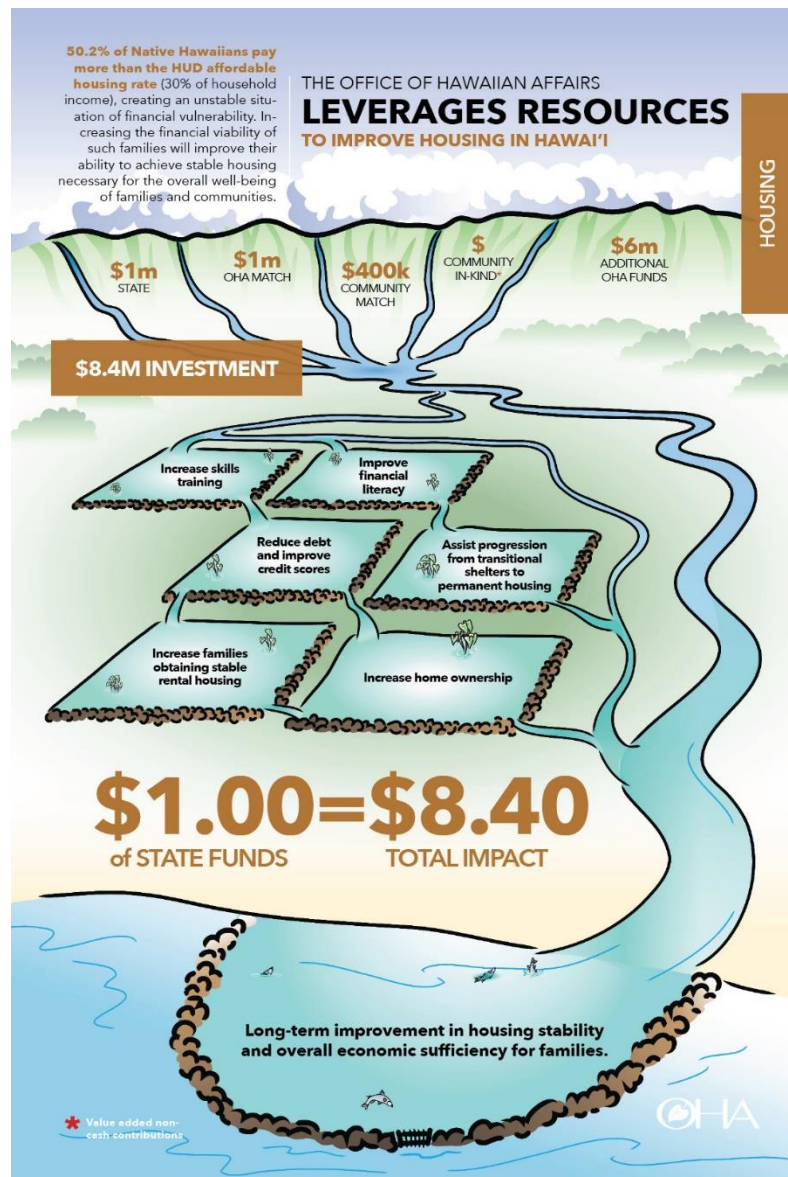
OHA continues to focus on helping more Native Hawaiians achieve housing stability, as many continue to struggle to achieve homeownership, afford adequate rental housing, and avoid homelessness. According to the latest available figures from 2017, only 54% of Native Hawaiians reside in owner-occupied housing, compared to 58.5% of residents of the state/State (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018). Of Native Hawaiian households planning to buy a home, the average amount available for a down payment was half that of non-Hawaiian households, \$24,440 compared to \$59,225; Native Hawaiians' median affordable monthly mortgage payment was \$1,000 less (HHFDC, 2016).

Meanwhile, more than half of Native Hawaiian renters live in homes they are struggling to afford, and many may also live in overcrowded situations to reduce rental payments (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018). In fact, one in four Native Hawaiian homes are occupied by two or more families in order to share housing costs and 14% include "hidden homeless" persons. These rates are more than two times that of non-Hawaiian households (10% doubled-up and 4% with hidden homeless). (HHFDC, 2016). In addition to being burdened by the same unaffordable housing costs as the rest of Hawai'i, Native Hawaiians also earn substantially less—nearly \$10,000 less—than that of the per capita income of the State (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018).

Among the State's homeless populations, Native Hawaiians represent the largest ethnic group, comprising 27% of all clients receiving homeless services statewide (Yuan & Cauci, 2018) and 32% of surveyed homeless on O'ahu (PIC, 2017). In fact, 25% of emergency shelter clients and 32% of transitional housing clients are Native Hawaiian (Yuan, 2017). Additionally, 22% of Native Hawaiian households are at-risk of becoming homeless (HHFDC, 2016).

In response to this data, OHA is advocating for appropriate affordable housing policies, and hoping to leverage \$500,000 from the State over the next two years to improve housing stability. OHA is accepting grants to assist Native Hawaiians improve housing stability, including Native Hawaiians that are currently homeless, at risk of homelessness, in transitional housing, in unstable or unaffordable rentals, and/or those pursuing homeownership.

Figure 9. Housing Infographic (See Appendix A-5 for larger image)



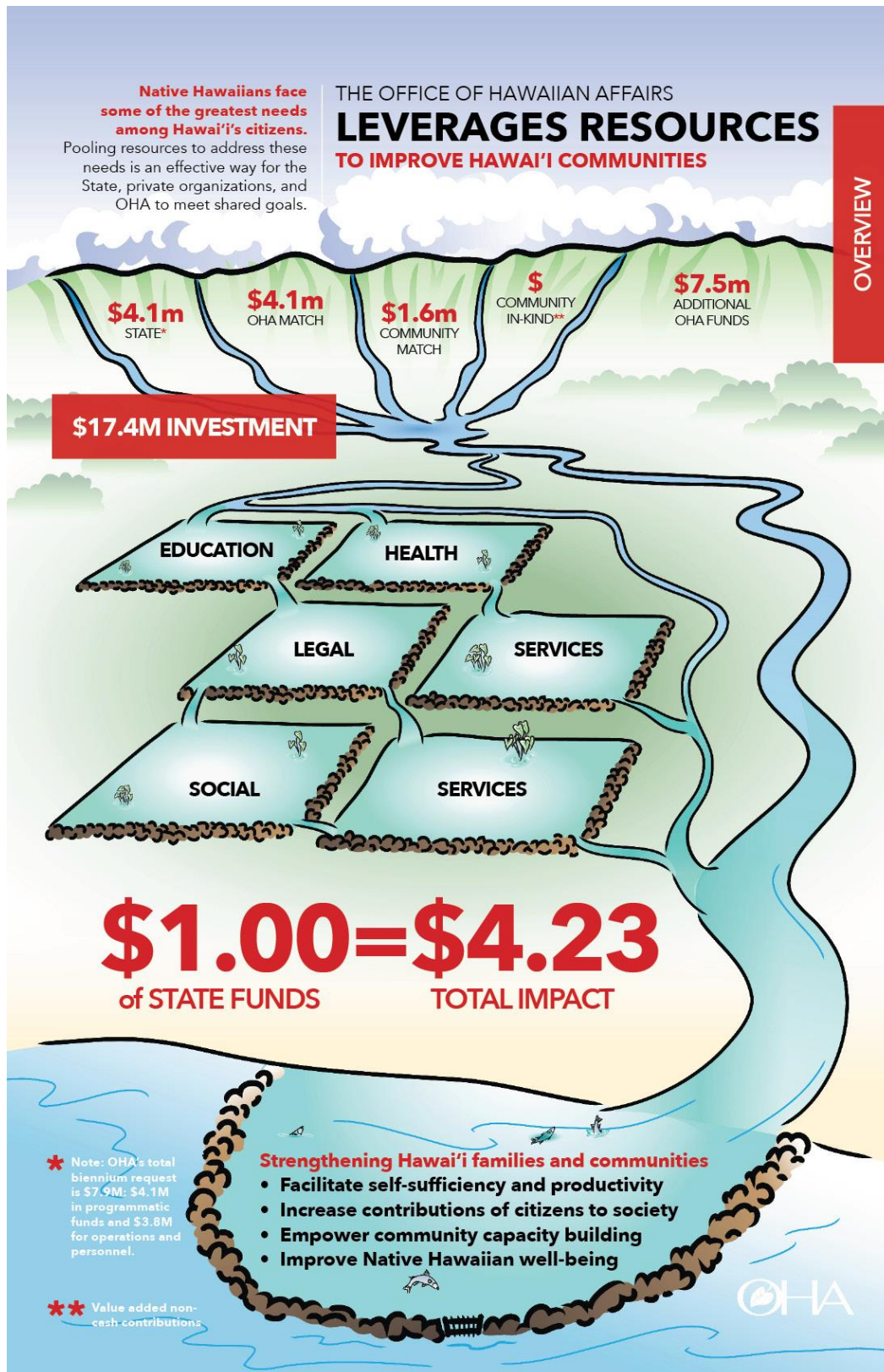
OHA and community partners expect to invest \$8.4 million into helping Native Hawaiians achieve housing stability, become more creditworthy, improve financial management, and increase their home ownership rate.

OHA has already seen real results through past grantees that have successfully helped Native Hawaiians, including homeless families and renters, become more economically self-sufficient and housing secure across the State.

# Appendix A

## OHA's Full Size Infographics

Figures A-1 Overview





Figures A-2 Social Services

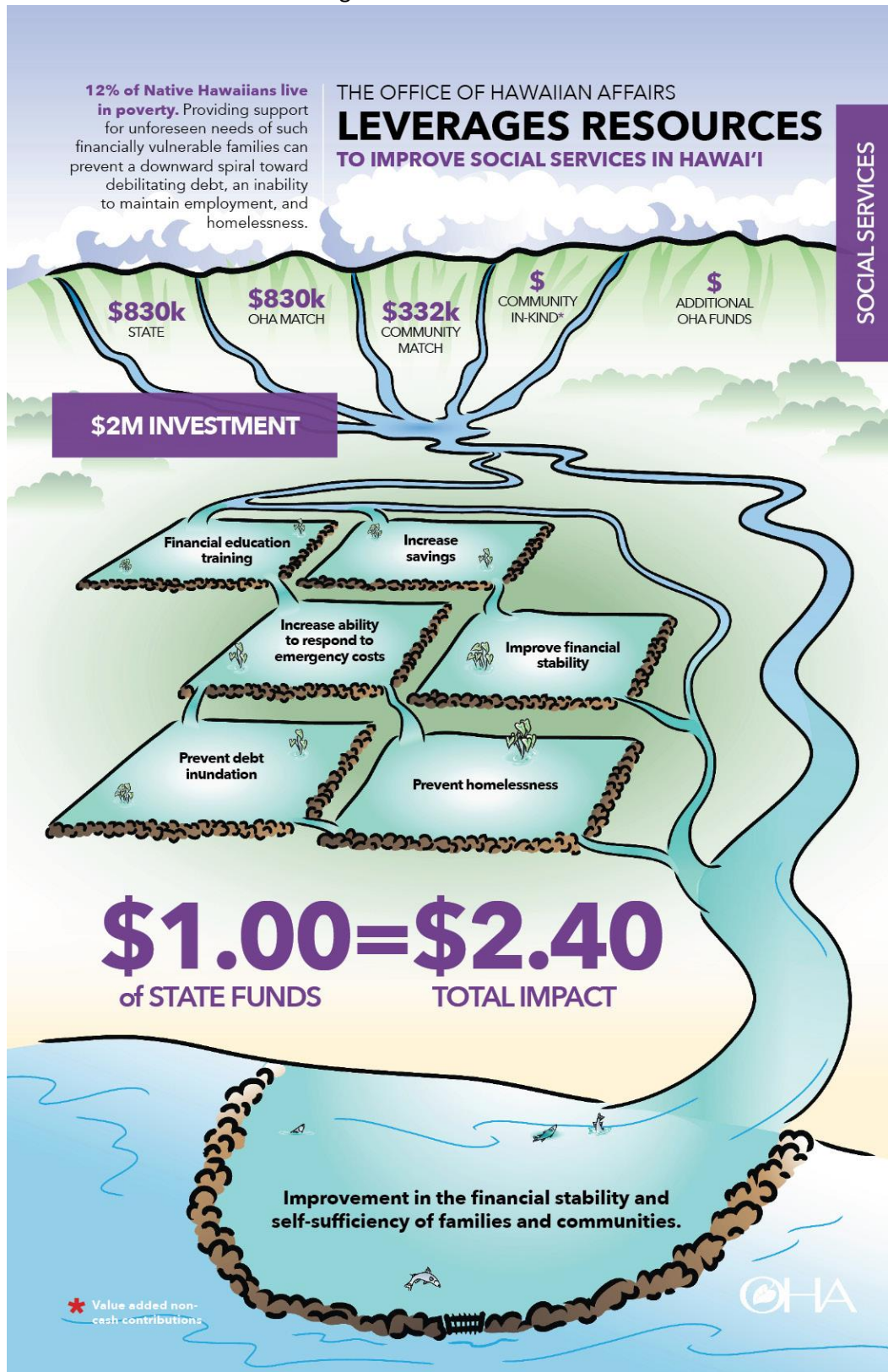




Figure A-3 Legal Services

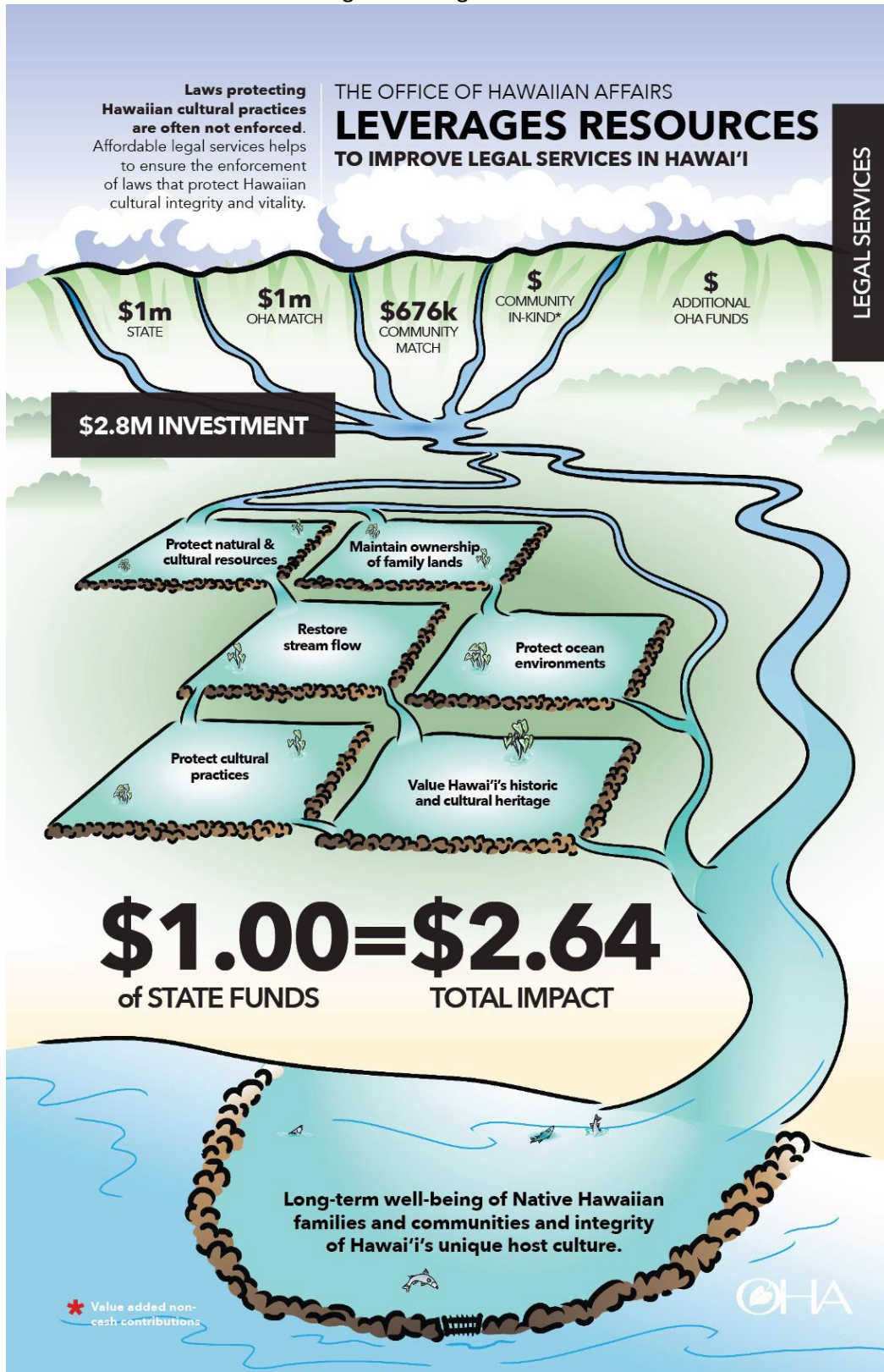


Figure A-4 Education

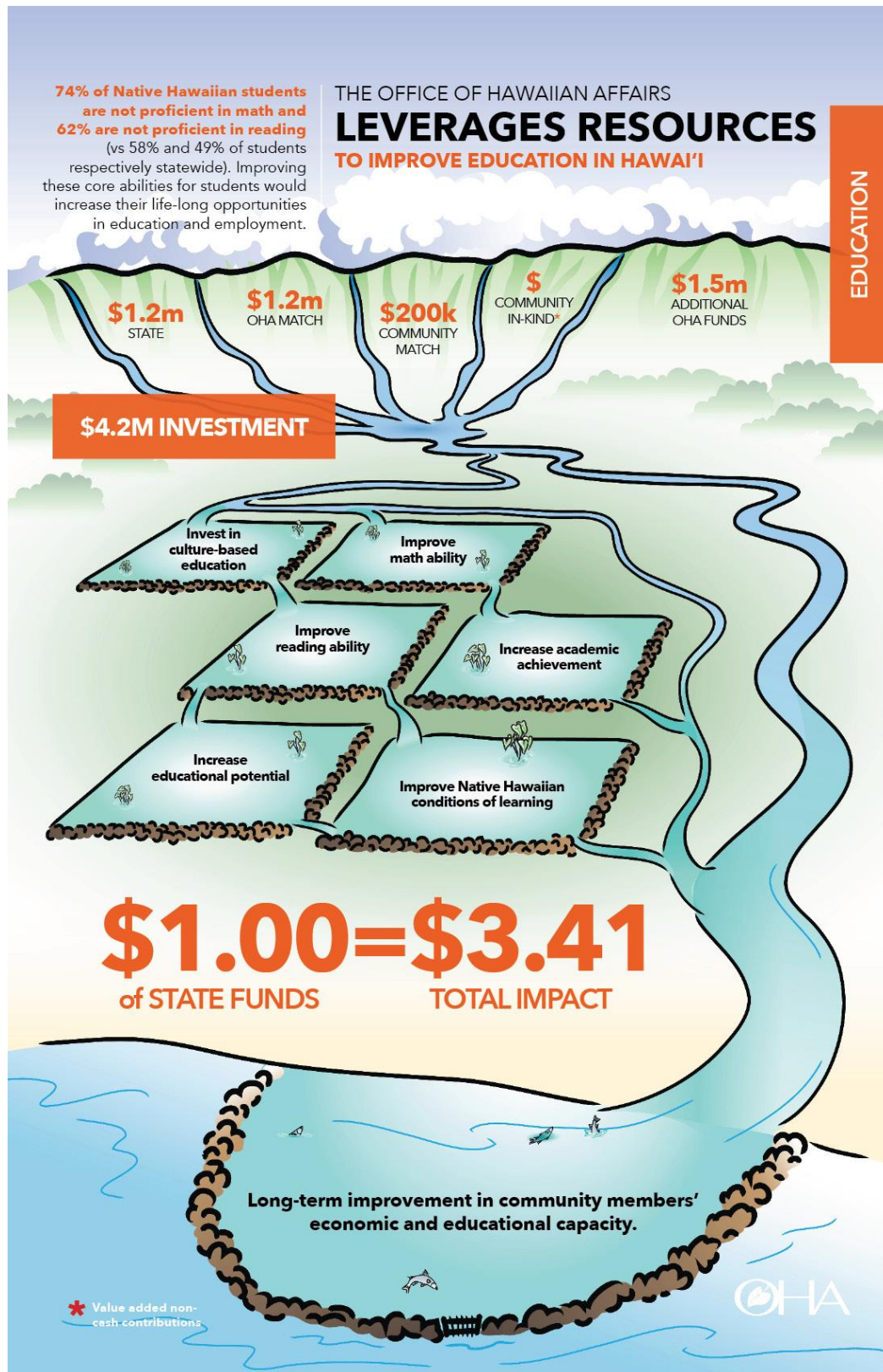
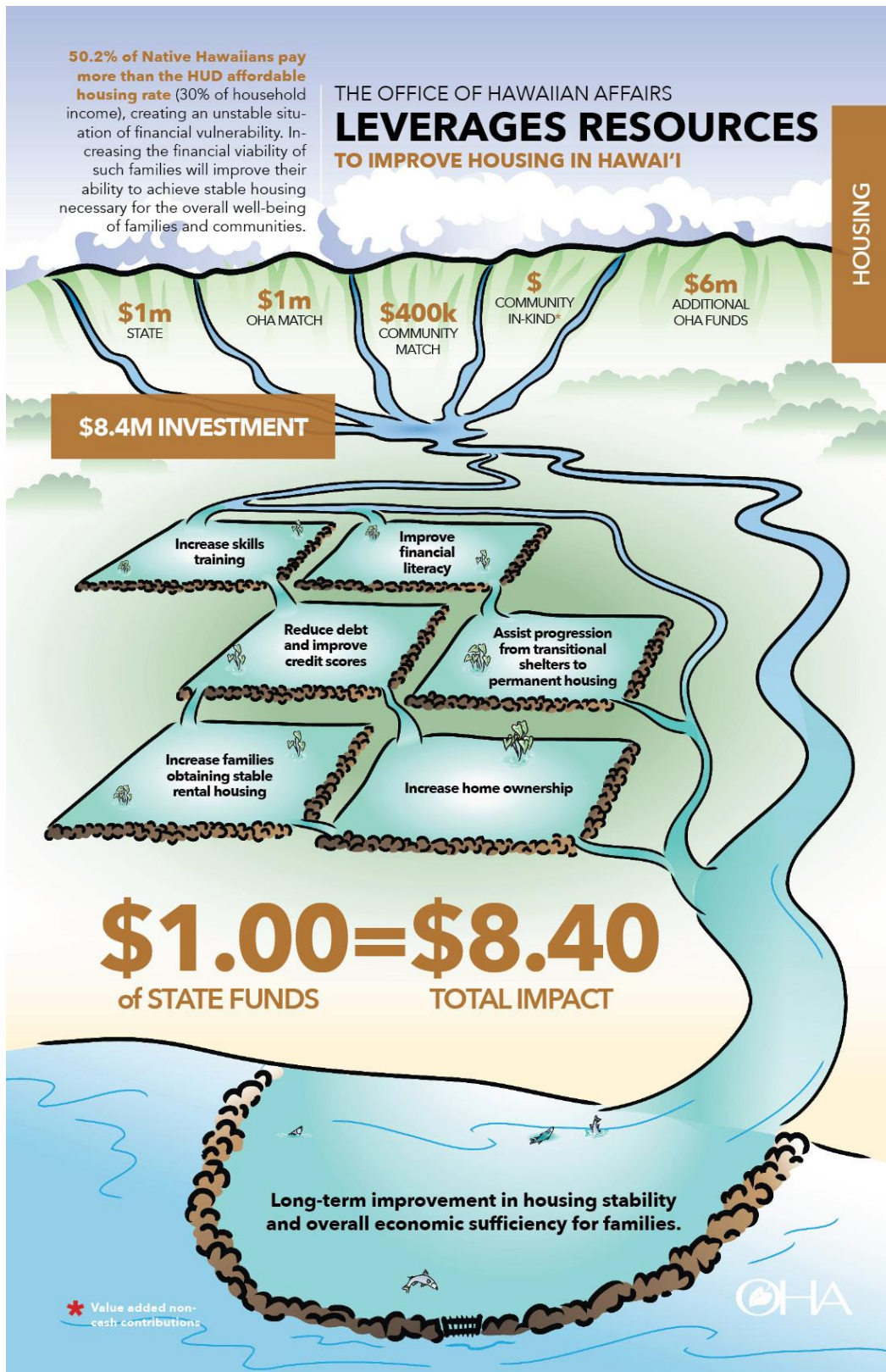




Figure A-5 Housing



**HB-172**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:50:44 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Livingston Jack Wong	The Queen's Health Systems, CNHA, KUA, Kamehameha Schools, Kanu o Ka Aina Learning Ohana	Support	No

Comments:



## THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

*Pō‘alima, Pepeluali 8, 2019*  
*Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 325*  
*Ke Kapikala Moku ‘āina*  
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB172 - RELATING TO THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

*Aloha Luna Ho‘omalu* Ryan Yamane, *Hope Luna Ho‘omalu* Chris Todd, and members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HB172. This bill appropriates funds for Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 for operations of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. At its 53rd annual convention, the Association passed resolution 2012-8, which reaffirms its support of the Native Hawaiian trusts, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

OHA is a trust for Native Hawaiians and functions as a semi-autonomous state agency that was established by the constitution and laws of the State of Hawai‘i. OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management, and the funding of community programs. OHA’s budget bill requests state general funds for each of the next two fiscal years to support OHA’s budget plans for the upcoming biennium. This bill maintains the three historical provisos of social services, legal services and education improvement, while also requesting general funds for housing programs. In addition, this bill proposes matching OHA trust fund resources with the requested state general funds. Through passage of this bill, the state will better fulfill its trust responsibilities to Native Hawaiians by supporting programs and operations that directly benefit Native Hawaiians, while strengthening all of the communities of Hawai‘i.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** HB172.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs

located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

*Mahalo* for allowing us to share our *mana* ‘o.

*Me ka ‘oia ‘i ‘o,*

Hailama Farden  
*Pelekikena*

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

16 - 36

### **REMEMBER AND RESPECT LA KUOKOA (HAWAIIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY) AS A HAWAIIAN NATIONAL HOLIDAY TO BE OBSERVED AND CELEBRATED ON NOV. 28 EVERY YEAR**

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa—Hawaii's Independence Day—was officially celebrated around the same time as Thanksgiving from about 1844 until 1895\*; and

WHEREAS, La Kuokoa is the 28th of November, marking the day in 1843 that the Alii Timoteo Haalilio succeeded in obtaining the signatures of the authorities of Great Britain and France on a treaty recognizing Hawaii as a sovereign and independent nation; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio, with the missionary William Richards along as his secretary, traveled through Mexico on foot and donkey to Washington D.C., where they met President John Tyler; and

WHEREAS, President Tyler agreed to the intent of the proposed treaty; and

WHEREAS, Haalilio and Richards, armed with his agreement, then went on to Europe, to Belgium, Paris, and London, where the treaty was finally signed; and

WHEREAS, they then returned to the United States to cement U.S. agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of Independence was a substantial achievement under International Law recognized by the Hawaiian Kingdom government through the official celebration of La Kuokoa; and

WHEREAS, after the coup in 1893, the so-called Republic of Hawaii government announced that November 28, 1895—a Thursday—would not be celebrated as La Kuokoa, but would become the American Thanksgiving holiday, instead; and

WHEREAS, the poe aloha aina—the thousands of Hawaiian Kingdom subjects opposed to the illegal government—were incensed; and

WHEREAS, the people ignored the government's orders, and held celebrations of La Kuokoa instead; and



WHEREAS, at those gatherings, the poe aloha aina told the story of Haalilio's journey and significant achievement; and

WHEREAS, James Kaulia of the Hui Aloha Aina stated that the people recalled with gladness the restoration and perpetuation of the independence of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the perpetrators of 1895-1896 not only deprived Hawaii of a national holiday, they enacted laws that caused all Hawaiians the loss of our language and the related loss of our own history, a process that caused us to be deprived of even the memory of this Hawaiian national holiday; and

WHEREAS, the council of Hawai'i County recognize La Kuokoa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs at its 57th annual convention at Las Vegas, Nevada this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, that it remember and respect La Kuokoa (Hawaiian Independence Day) as a Hawaiian national holiday to be observed and celebrated on Nov. 28 every year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs encourage the State of Hawaii and County governments to consider recognizing La Kuokoa; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs includes, along with its celebration and recognition of American holidays such as July 4th American Independence Day and January 16th Martin Luther King Day, specific remembrance of La Kuokoa as a Hawaiian holiday; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs include La Kuokoa holiday as Hawaiian Independence Day on its calendar of events.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, President of the State Senate, Speaker of the State House of Representatives, Chair of the State Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the State House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and all County Mayors.

Sources:

\*Noenoe Silva, PhD. 1998 <http://www.hawaiiankingdom.info/C1126750129/E501424467/>

\*\_Ke Aloha Aina\_ (Hawaiian language newspaper)

November-December 1895, January 1896.





The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, at the 57th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Las Vegas, Nevada.

*Annelle C. Amaral*

---

Annelle C. Amaral, President

**Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs  
Moku o Keawe – Hawai‘i Council**

P.O. Box 7164  
Hilo, HI 96720

**LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY  
IN SUPPORT OF HB 172  
RELATING TO THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.  
House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Friday, February 8, 2019 8:30AM Room #325**

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd and members of the committee,

Moku o Keawe – Hawai‘i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs is one of five Councils of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Moku o Keawe – Hawai‘i Council **SUPPORTS HB172.**

A semi-autonomous state agency, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) was established by the constitution and laws of the State of Hawai‘i, and is mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians, Hawai‘i’s indigenous, native people. OHA’s budget bill requests state general funds for each of the next two fiscal years to support OHA’s budget plans for the upcoming biennium to fulfill its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management and the funding of community programs.

1. From 2011-2018, OHA awarded over \$110 million in programmatic funding, grants, and sponsorships, that address our state’s most crucial issues that include environmental stewardship, food security, housing and homelessness, education, and health care.
2. Since 2011, OHA has awarded over \$25 million on land and culture related grants and contracts, which include substantial funding to support Native Hawaiian traditional and cultural practices that rely heavily on balanced use of our streams, such as taro farms, fishponds, and forest restoration.

We support the continued partnership between the State and OHA to fund these critical programs and strongly urge to support HB172.

Mahalo,



Shane Palacat-Nelsen  
AHCC – Moku o Keawe  
Pelekikena



## THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS

House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

*Pō‘alima, Pepeluali 8, 2019*  
*Lumi ‘Aha Kūkā 325*  
*Ke Kapikala Moku ‘āina*  
415 South Beretānia Street

Re: HB172 - RELATING TO THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

*Aloha Luna Ho‘omalu* Ryan Yamane, *Hope Luna Ho‘omalu* Chris Todd, and members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs **SUPPORTS** HB172. This bill appropriates funds for Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 for operations of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. At its 53rd annual convention, the Association passed resolution 2012-8, which reaffirms its support of the Native Hawaiian trusts, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

OHA is a trust for Native Hawaiians and functions as a semi-autonomous state agency that was established by the constitution and laws of the State of Hawai‘i. OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management, and the funding of community programs. OHA’s budget bill requests state general funds for each of the next two fiscal years to support OHA’s budget plans for the upcoming biennium. This bill maintains the three historical provisos of social services, legal services and education improvement, while also requesting general funds for housing programs. In addition, this bill proposes matching OHA trust fund resources with the requested state general funds. Through passage of this bill, the state will better fulfill its trust responsibilities to Native Hawaiians by supporting programs and operations that directly benefit Native Hawaiians, while strengthening all of the communities of Hawai‘i.

Thus, the Association respectfully urges the committee to **PASS** HB172.

The civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana‘ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and has grown to a confederation of over sixty (60) Hawaiian Civic Clubs

located throughout the State of Hawai‘i and the United States. The Association is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grassroots organization. The Association is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors; advocates for improved welfare of Native Hawaiians in culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other Native Hawaiian cultural traditions.

*Mahalo* for allowing us to share our *mana* ‘o.

*Me ka ‘oia ‘i ‘o,*

Hailama Farden  
*Pelekikena*

# ***ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS***

## ***A RESOLUTION***

16 - 36

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WHEREAS, Haalilio and Richards, armed with his agreement, then went on to Europe, to Belgium, Paris, and London, where the treaty was finally signed; and

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Sources:

\*Noenoe Silva, PhD. 1998 <http://www.hawaiiankingdom.info/C1126750129/E501424467/>

\*\_Ke Aloha Aina\_ (Hawaiian language newspaper)

November-December 1895, January 1896.



The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016, at the 57th Annual Convention of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Annelle C. Amaral  
Annelle C. Amaral, President



February 7, 2019

To: Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair  
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

**Re: Hearing on HB 172 Relating to the Budget of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs**

February 8, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol

Conference Room 325

## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 172

**The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA), a Native Hawaiian serving organization, testifies in strong support of the OHA budget bill** because of the financial support and funding for programs it provides for Native Hawaiian individuals, their families, and their communities. This funding will enable OHA to work towards achieving its mission of “bettering the conditions of Hawaiians” as is its duty and responsibility under the State of Hawaii Constitution and the related laws of the State of Hawaii promulgated after OHA was created through the amendments passed by the 1978 Constitutional Convention and later ratified and adopted by a vote of the people.

### **CNHA Supports \$4.1 Million of General Funding for the Proposed OHA Budget Bill and for a Commitment In An Equal Amount of Matching OHA Trust Funds.**

The OHA budget bill proposes and requests \$4.1 million in state general funds through the various provisions of section 5, section 6, section 7, and section 8 for the combined two years of the coming biennium. In return, OHA will match, through their trust funds, on a dollar for dollar basis, this \$4.1 million committed by the State Legislature. In addition, OHA will commit an additional \$9.1 million in OHA resources on top of the total \$8.2 million set forth in their proposed budget bill as a way to leverage this initial Legislative general fund investment of \$4.1 million. Expressed another way, each dollar invested by the state will yield a minimum of \$4.23 in OHA funding for all of the sectors set forth in sections 5,6,7, and 8 of the OHA budget bill. By any standard economic rubric, this \$4.2 to \$1 leverage marker makes good economic sense, and helps to address the needs of Native Hawaiian beneficiaries who also comprise approximately 25% of the general population of Hawaii.

Section 5 of the OHA budget bill proposes and requests \$415,000 in State general funds (for each of the two years of the biennium) to be matched by \$415,000 (for each of the two years of the biennium) in OHA trust funds to provide education and direct support to assist Hawaiians who are at-risk of being overwhelmed financially and who may be at jeopardy of becoming homeless. Through its relationship with community funders, OHA's financial commitments will yield and create an additional \$332,000 in external community funding and support for these OHA program initiatives. When expressed another way, each dollar of State funding will yield nearly \$2.40 in additional resource commitments from OHA and its community partners to improve the social service safety net for Native Hawaiians.



Section 6 of the OHA biennium budget bill addresses the need to improve education outcomes for Native Hawaiian students and to thereby increase their lifelong economic, health, and social well being. The bill proposes and requests \$615,000 in State general funds (for each of the two years of the biennium) to be matched, on a dollar for dollar basis, by \$615,000 (for each of the two years of the biennium) in OHA trust funds. In addition to this commitment of their trust funds, OHA will commit to adding \$1.5 million in OHA funds plus \$200,000 in community funds to support these Native Hawaiian education initiatives for a leverage rate of \$1 of state funds being matched by \$3.41 in OHA spending to improve the education of Native Hawaiians.

Section 7 of the OHA biennium budget bill addresses OHA's need to defend the rights of Native Hawaiians to protect their Hawaiian kuleana lands, to defend Hawaiian families against quiet title actions increasingly brought by mainland buyers with huge financial resources to force Hawaiians without sufficient cash resources to sell their ancestral lands rather than defend their ownership of their family lands, to encourage, define, and defend the rights of Hawaiians to practice their traditional and customary rights and to exercise their kuleana to malama 'aina while nurturing their connection to their homelands and encouraging a sense of well being and fostering a strong sense of Hawaiian identity through such actions, and to defend the special status of the lands of the Kingdom of Hawaii which were seized without permission by the Committee of Safety, transferred without Kingdom permission to the provisional government, transferred without Kingdom permission to the United States, and eventually transferred by the Federal government to the State of Hawaii in 1959 when Hawaii became the 50<sup>th</sup> state in the Union. We further support OHA funding to assure that the trust lands themselves, as well as the income, rents, and proceeds and the additional trusts created by federal and state Constitutions, by State compacts, and by federal and state statutes from this original trust *res* for Native Hawaiians, shall be honored, adhered to, and given full force and effect in the relevant and appropriate federal and state courts.

Section 7 proposes and requests \$524,000 in State general funds (for each of the two years of the biennium) and \$524,000 (for each of the two years of the biennium) in matching OHA trust funds for these crucial and necessary legal services. OHA will provide additional matching funds in the amount of \$676,000 to support these legal services which, when added to the total amount of funds OHA will provide for these legal services, equates to \$2.64 of OHA funds for every dollar in general State funds authorized and appropriated by the legislature to defend the rights of Native Hawaiians.



Section 8 of the OHA biennium budget bill proposes and requests \$500,000 in general funds (for each of the two years of the biennium) for housing and housing related programs for Native Hawaiians that will, in turn, be matched by \$500,000 (for each of the two years of the biennium) in OHA trust funds. OHA is committed to spend an additional \$6 million of its agency funds, in addition to acquiring a community match of \$200,000 to support its housing initiatives for Native Hawaiians. The effective leverage rate by OHA for each dollar of State general funds authorized and appropriated is \$3.41.

Respectfully,

J. Kuhio Lewis  
Chief Executive Officer  
Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement

**HB-172**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 9:22:39 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies  
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205  
Kane'ohe, HI 96744  
(808) 247-7942  
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director  
e-mail [Ken\\_Conklin@yahoo.com](mailto:Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com)  
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Friday, February 8, 2019

Re: HB 172 RELATING TO THE BUDGET OF THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS.

Appropriates funds for Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 for operations of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs divisions. Includes operating budgets for Office of Trustees – OHA150; Administration – OHA160; and Beneficiary Advocacy – OHA175

#### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

This bill attempts to make a distinction between "general funds" vs. "trust funds." The concept seems to be that the trust fund dollars come to OHA as OHA's 20% share of ceded land revenues, while the "general funds" come to OHA as extra appropriations of general fund tax dollars which the legislature arbitrarily decides to give to OHA just because ... just because.

It appears that in most or all of the categories listed in this bill, OHA demands that the State of Hawaii provide one-for-one matching dollars, so that every dollar spent by OHA from its share of ceded land revenue will be matched by a dollar of money collected from taxpayers.

But why? The money available to the State of Hawaii to pay for things available to all the people of Hawaii comes from taxes plus rents paid for the use of the public lands. When 20% of ceded land revenue is given away to OHA, that is money which is no longer available for the State government to deliver services to all the people regardless of race. OHA beneficiaries get 20% of ceded land revenue on top of all the benefits which all Hawaii's people get, including the OHA beneficiaries. In other words, OHA beneficiaries are already double-dipping. OHA beneficiaries get to use the public schools, airports, harbors, roads, beaches, libraries, disease prevention, clean water, etc -- all the things they get simply because they are residents of the State just like all the other residents. But in addition the OHA beneficiaries get extra goods and services set aside exclusively for their racial group -- stuff that is not given to the 80% of Hawaii's people who lack a drop of the magic blood. That clearly is not fair. Government is treating OHA beneficiaries as the favored race -- da punahele race -- while everyone else are second-class citizens.

But that's not enough! This bill proposes to give even more generously to OHA beneficiaries -- this bill proposes that every dollar spent by OHA from "its" trust fund should now be matched by an extra dollar ripped out of the pockets of the taxpayers. What nonsense!

According to its most recent annual report, OHA already has a net worth of \$662 Million Squirreled away in real estate, stocks and bonds. This year OHA has bills in the legislature demanding "back rent" of \$139 Million, plus \$35 Million more every year. And now, on top of all that, OHA wants matching dollars from the State's general fund of tax dollars. Maha'oi loa!

Just say no. Shout it: HELL NO!

**HB-172**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 3:13:29 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna K Santos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-172**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 11:42:15 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leanne Fox	Individual	Support	No

## Comments:

I strongly **SUPPORT** HB172, which appropriates funds for Fiscal Biennium 2019-2021 for operations of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. OHA is a semi-autonomous state agency established by the constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, and mandated to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians, Hawai'i's indigenous, native people. OHA fulfills its mandate through advocacy, research, community engagement, land management and the funding of community programs. OHA's budget bill requests state general funds for each of the next two fiscal years to support OHA's budget plans for the upcoming biennium.

In the last six fiscal years (2011-2018), OHA awarded over \$110 million in programmatic funding, grants, and sponsorships, that address our state's most critical issues, including environmental stewardship, food security, housing and homelessness, education, and health care.

Of those funds, since 2011, OHA has awarded upwards of \$25 million on land and culture related grants and contracts, which include substantial funding in support of the Native Hawaiian traditional and cultural practices that rely heavily on balanced use of our streams, such as mahi 'ai kalo.

In the last six fiscal years (2011-2018), OHA awarded over \$110 million in programmatic funding, grants, and sponsorships, that address our state's most critical issues, including environmental stewardship, food security, housing and homelessness, education, and health care.

I support the continued partnership between the State and OHA to fund these critical programs and humbly request that this measure be passed out of this committee.

**LATE**

**HB-172**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:56:30 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



February 8, 2019

TO: Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs  
RE: HB 172  
HEARING DATE: February 8, 2018  
TIME: 8:30 AM  
ROOM: 325  
POSITION: **SUPPORT**



Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and members of the committee:

My name is Bob Merce. I am a retired lawyer and recently served as vice chair of the HCR 85 Task Force on prison reform. I am also on the Board of Directors of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corp. (NHLC).

I am writing in **strong support** of HB 172.

OHA is an extremely important and vital part of our community and should receive continued funding as outlined in HB 172. OHA's support of NHLC has helped preserve ancestral lands for Native Hawaiians and protected traditional and customary water and land rights. With OHA funding, NHLC has also protected na kupuna 'oiwi (Native Hawaiian burials), enforced important trust obligations, and advocated for Native Hawaiians caught up in the criminal justice system and for Hawaiian children seeking access to a Hawaiian language education.

For the past two years OHA has played a leading role on the HCR 85 Task Force and was instrumental in shaping the Task Force's recommendations.

The OHA staff I have worked with are extremely competent, smart, hard working, and deeply committed to improving the lives of Native Hawaiians. It is an honor to be a part of their very important work.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 172 and I apologize for submitting my testimony at the last minute.